

The Kennedy-Kasich-Markey Biological Weapons Restrictions Act of 1996 would add provisions recommended by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Justice Department, and the Centers for Disease Control [CDC] to current law on weapons of mass destruction and biological and chemical weapons by making the criminal misuse of such biological organisms a Federal crime.

On the surface, the bipartisan Kennedy-Kasich-Markey legislation is very basic. But it represents some very fundamental and necessary changes to current law to fill some very clear gaps identified by the FBI and Justice Departments.

Specifically, the Kennedy-Kasich-Markey bill and amendment would amend the Federal criminal statute to impose mandatory penalties.

First, against anyone who knowingly develops, produces, stockpiles, transfers, acquires, or attempts to acquire under false pretenses any biological agent, toxin or delivery system for use as weapons, or knowingly assists a foreign or any organization to deliver a weapon of mass destruction intended to kill, injure or otherwise harm any persons living in the United States; and

Second, against anyone who knowingly attempts, conspires, or threatens to use any biological agent, toxin or delivery system for use as a weapon, or knowingly assists a foreign state or any organization to do so.

The legislation would also add the term "recombinant DNA material" to the definitions of what constitutes a potential biological weapon if used improperly or as a weapon of mass destruction.

Finally, the legislation would expand the current definition of what constitutes a criminal offense to include those who threaten to use a biological weapon to kill or injure another.

This gap in current law was evident last year, on Good Friday, when, in the weeks following the terrorist incidents in Japan involving the toxin Sarin, an anonymous threat was lodged against Disneyland and its thousands of visitors. The threat demanded a ransom note be paid, or the toxic substance would be released in the Disneyland amusement park. Fortunately, that incident did not result in the threat being carried out, but clearly there is a need to address cases where such threats or other acts of extortion would occur.

In summary, there are two important issues facing this Congress when considering biological or chemical weapons legislation.

The first is how best we can limit access to biological organisms that can be used by a domestic terrorist to make a weapon of mass destruction without inhibiting the very legitimate research of the scientific community in this area. The other issue is how best and how swiftly we will address some very glaring gaps in the current weapons of mass destruction Federal law.

The legislation I have developed, the Kennedy-Kasich-Markey legislation, addresses issues involving the Federal criminal code, title 18 of the United States Code.

The FBI and the CIA have both testified before Congress that terrorism in the form of biological and chemical weapons is the greatest law enforcement challenge of the next decade.

These bills respond to several recent incidents in Ohio, Minnesota, and Mississippi where fringe groups were able to acquire dangerous viruses, pathogens, and toxins but, for-

tunately, were stopped before a domestic terrorism incident occurred.

In closing, I'd also restate my support for the approach developed by Representative MARKEY, myself, and others.

Congressman MARKEY'S legislation would allow the Centers for Disease Control to develop regulations limiting the relative easy access to these dangerous biological agents to those individuals with insincere motives and illegitimate intentions, while also protecting the very sincere and legitimate scientific research involving pathogenic or etiological material.

There is obviously legitimate day-to-day research involving these dangerous viruses, such as efforts to find an antidote to the Ebola virus, ongoing at dozens, if not hundreds of academic laboratories. This research is ongoing at both Harvard University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology [MIT] in my congressional district. We must take the appropriate steps to protect this legitimate research, and I believe the Markey-Kennedy-Kasich bill is a reasonable step in this direction.

NARCOTICS TRADE

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 6, 1996

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my good friends and colleagues, Mr. SHAW of Florida and Mr. HAMILTON of Indiana, in announcing this new and tougher approach in the battle against the international narcotics trade. Our bill, further linking foreign trade to the deadly narcotics business from abroad, is long overdue.

Vice President GORE said not long ago that the annual cost to our society here at home from drug abuse is a staggering \$67 billion each and every year. Most of those drugs come from abroad. While the Vice President's estimate is very low in my opinion, it makes amply clear the seriousness of the threat that illicit drugs from abroad pose for our society here at home. For example, the FBI Director attributes about 90 percent of our crime to drugs.

No nation can and should tolerate such destruction coming from abroad, and not take drastic and dramatic action. If we were to add this \$67 billion annual cost from drug abuse to any yearly trade picture with the major drug producing or transit nations—who want easy access to our markets—we would see an overwhelming and staggering U.S. trade deficit each and every year with these same nations.

The American people know something must be done. Just recently, a survey of public opinion on U.S. foreign policy indicated that 85 percent of the U.S. public believes stopping the flow of illegal drugs to our Nation is the most important foreign policy issue, topping even the concern for protecting U.S. jobs. Our bill responds to that justifiable public concern of the American people.

Mr. SHAW'S bill, which I am pleased to be an original cosponsor of, will require the imposition of trade sanctions on countries failing to cooperate fully with U.S. efforts against the production and sale of narcotics as evidenced by 2 consecutive years of decertification.

Under our bill, on the recommendation of the U.S. Trade Representative and the Sec-

retary of State, one or more of these trade sanctions must and should be applied. This will provide the administration with yet another vital weapon against the flow of deadly drugs into our Nation.

I want to compliment Mr. SHAW and Mr. HAMILTON for their leadership in this effort. We are and will continue to be very serious about drugs, and the American people's deep concerns, as this effort being announced today clearly reflects.

TRIBUTE TO GREATER BETHEL A.M.E. CHURCH, MIAMI, FL

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 6, 1996

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Greater Bethel A.M.E. Church, the oldest African-American congregation in the city of Miami.

Since its founding on March 12, 1896, in the home of Mr. A.C. Lightburn, Greater Bethel A.M.E. has been at the center of Miami's spiritual and community development.

Today, in fulfillment of its founder's vision, Greater Bethel A.M.E. Church still nurtures the spirit of its congregation and the entire Miami community.

Standing on the word, under the cross, in its 100 years of existence, 13 men have served as pastor: Rev. W.G. Fields, Rev. W.A. Jackson, Rev. S.J. Johnson, Rev. A.P. Postell, Rev. R.B. Sutton, Rev. H.B. Barkley, Rev. H.W. Fayson, Rev. W.F. Ball, Rev. J.B. Blacknell, Rev. S.A. Cousin, Rev. T.S. Johnson, Rev. Ira D. Hinson, and Rev. John F. White.

As it begins its second century, Greater Bethel A.M.E. Church is responding to many new challenges. Greater Bethel A.M.E. Church provides programs for children and senior citizens. The church provides counseling to drug and alcohol abusers, shelters and clothes the homeless, as well as gives support to people infected with HIV.

A solid rock in Miami's African-American community, Greater Bethel A.M.E. Church continues to uplift and nurture the human spirit while reinforcing the fabric of the community's social and economic well-being.

Greater Bethel A.M.E. Church recognizes that salvation and service go hand in hand. Church members realize, all too well, that you can't speak to someone about God if they are hungry; and that if you're going to save souls, you have to save their bodies too.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Greater Bethel A.M.E. Church on the first 100 years and I wish them much success as they carry on their mission through the next 100 years of service and dedication to God and mankind.

LEGISLATION TO REAUTHORIZE THE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION

HON. JAMES V. HANSEN

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 6, 1996

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing, by request, legislation to reauthorize